

Nearer Still Nearer (Ruth 3:3-11)

Proposition: Every child of God has opportunity to draw closer and closer to the Lord Jesus in a more intimate day-by-day relationship. This opportunity can be taken advantage of by following the principals laid out for us Ruth's pursuit of a more intimate relationship with Boaz.

I. A Self Preparation for Nearness (Vs. 3)

- A. A Cleansing Preparation (Vs. 3a)
- B. A Consecrating Preparation (Vs. 3b)
- C. A Clothing Preparation (Vs. 3c)

II. A Single Place of Nearness (Vs. 3d-7)

- A. A Meaningful Place (Vs. 7)
- B. A Marked Place (Vs. 4)

III. A Specific Position to Nearness (Vs. 8-10)

- A. A Position of Permission (Vs. 2:1; 2:20; 3:2)
- B. A Position of Pledge (Vs. 8-11)

Nearer Still Nearer (Ruth 3:3-11)

Nearer still nearer, close to Thy heart,
Draw me my Saviour so precious Thou art!
Fold me, O fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast,

Shelter me safe in that Haven of Rest.
These are the wonderful words to hymn written by Lelia Morris.

Nothing extraordinary about Lelia, She can be known the Lord @ 10 yrs old, married at 19, was a house wife + mother. She was very active w/ her husband at church played the organ, worked in Sunday School helped at renewals + camp meetings. But in 1892 at a Methodist camp meeting at Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, Lelia had a dramatic Pentecost-like experience. She thought that such an intimate relationship was relegated to just preachers + bishops. It was not long after this experience that she wrote this song "Nearer Still Nearer." What Lelia Morris experienced in a closer intimate walk w/ the Lord Jesus can be claimed by you and I as his disciples. We too can lean our heads on

I. A Self Preparation for Nearness (3) -

Have you seen those Bride + wedding shows on T.V. How that the bride paints and repairs hours on end. You

Just don't fall out of bed, put James on + go down

A. A Cleansing Preparation (3a) - If we are going to have a close relationship w/ the Lord, we are going to clean our selves from sin. 2 Cor. 7:1 David asked God to show him his sin Ps 139:23-24 Ps 32:5, 1 John 1:9 to confess our sins. We can not walk close to a all knowing God, with hidden sin in our heart.

B. A Consecrating Preparation (3b) - The anointing she is speaking of is comparable to placing perfume on the body. Naomi is saying I want you to smell good. Our life ought to be a sweet fragrance to God. 2 Cor 2:5 also had ceremonial meaning. It was used to show someone was set apart for purpose. We are to be set apart for ^{work}

C. A Challenging Preparation (3c) - Naomi says, Now put on your best garments I want you to look your best for Boaz. Garments of Christian life speak of that which is seen by those around us. Our testimony and our witness. E. Persians 4:22-24. If men are going to walk close to the Lord, we are to plainly identify w/ the Lord. Put best feet ^{forward}

II. A Single Place of Nearness (3d-7)

Moses ask God to show him his Glory, Moses wanted to know God as he had never known him before. Ex 33:21 And the Lord said Behold this is a place by me.

- 1) ...on the bosom of Jesus and hear the heart beat of heaven.

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- 2) 2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- 3) Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- 4) Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

- 5) ...in our heart. May we sing the words of Charles Tindley
Nothing between my soul and the Saviour, Naught of this
world's delusive dream: I have renounced all sinful pleasure -
Jesus is mine, there's nothing between.

- 6) 2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

- 7) Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

1) John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

2) Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3) ...consume our thoughts and check our walk. Paul said in Philippians 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." "When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the prince of glory died, my richest gains I count as loss and pour contempt on all my pride!"

if you want to draw near there is a place! Ruth the ^{place} after

A. A Meaningful Place (7) - The threshing floor is a significant place in the Bible. The Temple of God was built on the threshing floor of Oman the Jebusite. Threshing floors are places where chaff is separated from wheat, A Place of Judgment. It speaks to us of Calvary. The work of Calvary is the basis of our individual union w/ Christ and our intimate communion w/ Christ. vs 7, Jn 4: 34 ¹ Here at the cross he did the will of his father, he drank the bitter cup of sin. He rejoiced - Heb 12: 2 ² Saying 'It is finished'

B. A Marked Place (4) - Naomi said to Ruth to 'Mark' the place. The word 'mark' means 'to know, acquaint thyself'. Ruth look very closely at Boaz in the threshing floor. So should we mark the place where Jesus took the Judgment of God on our behalf. Mark the crown of thorns, Mark the nails in his hands and feet. Mark the spear in his side. 'Calvary should be more than an historical event it should be personal experience' ³ It should capture our hearts, control our will, console

III. A Specific Position to Naomi (8)
This scene seems almost racy but I assume you was is happening is according to Jewish custom. She is claiming Boaz

as her Kinsman Redeemer. The closest possible relation

A. A Position of Permission (2:1; 5:30, 32)

We have not closely detailed this position of Kinsman redeemer. It had to do w/ the land. The portion of land given to a family could never be sold. If it was for some reason lost, it could be redeemed (Purchased) by a family member to keep it in family. In the case of family if there was a widow, the nearest single kin was to marry that widow and continue the family. Ruth had permission to claim Boaz as her Kinsman Redeemer. She didn't want to settle for just gleanings of grain and bread fulsome purpose

B. A Position of Pledge (8-11) - She startled him. He wasn't expecting that. Vs 9 Ruth said spread your... claim me as your wife. Vs 10-11 Basically Boaz said "yes" He gave her a promise "Ruth requested her pledge and received the promise of Boaz" (You know we have this same promise Revelation 3:20)

Behold I stand at the door & knock.

John 14:23 Our Lord Jesus waits in the threshing floor of his finished work to claim you. To draw you nearer. Will you come

IV Close - Nearer still nearer, close to thy heart, draw me my Saviour so precious than art! It's for you today a closer more intimate walk is not just for Preacher or evangelist, it's for men and wife

1) ...relationship she could have. I wonder how close to the Lord do you really want? Because of the cross of calvary we are welcomed to come as near to him as we possibly can.

2) ...purpose, she wanted him completely. We have the same permission to come and claim him wholly and completely as ours. We can come and bow down to Him and surrender our all to Him.

3) Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

4) John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.